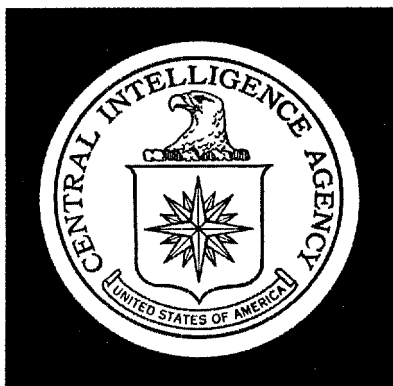


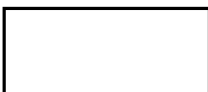
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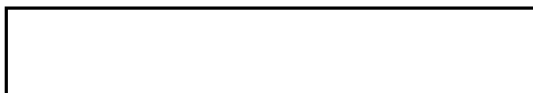
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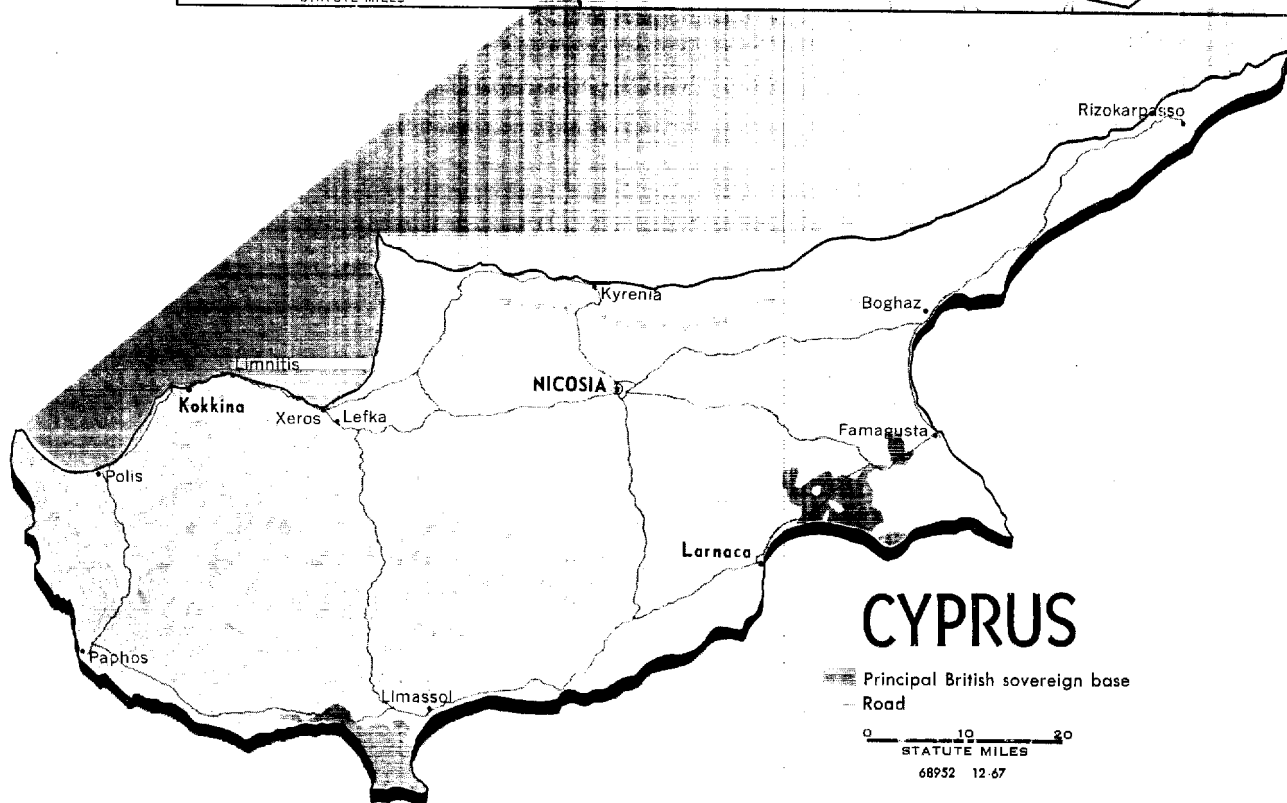
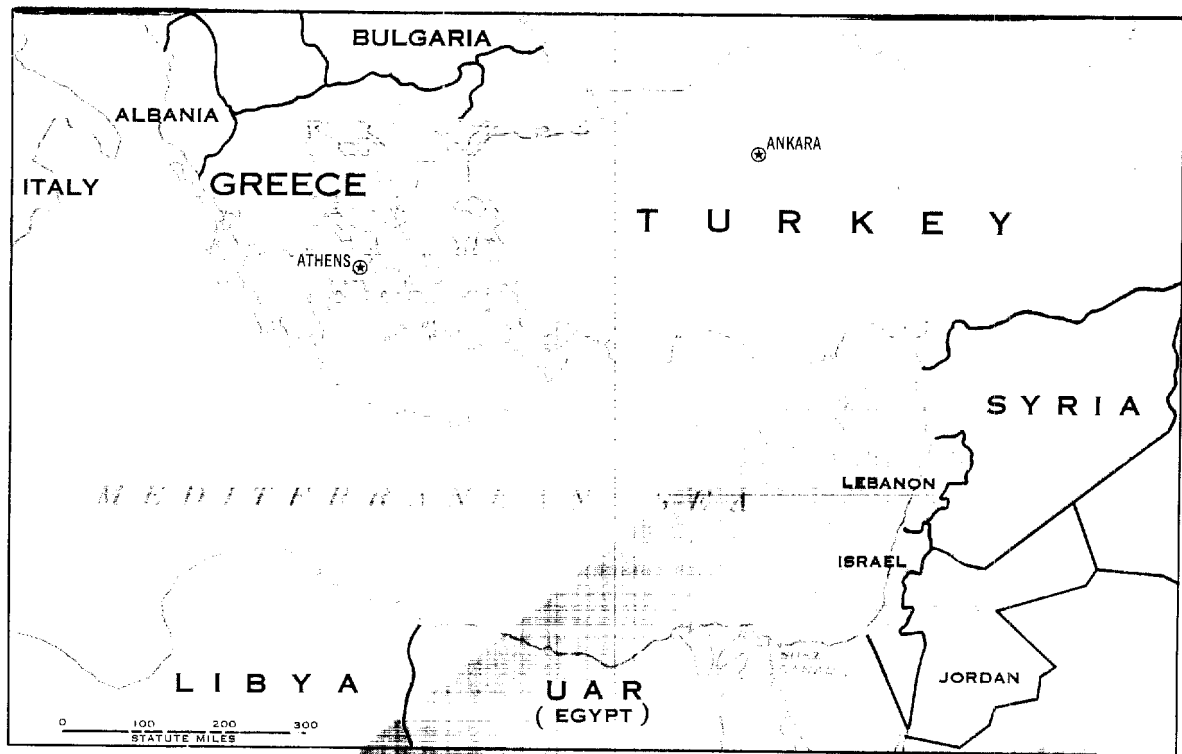
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Cyprus: New trouble may develop as efforts get under way to carry out troop withdrawals and to "normalize" relations between the Greek and Turkish communities.

The troop withdrawal problem involves a difference in interpretation of key provisions of the agreement of 3 December which ended the immediate threat of Turkish military intervention on Cyprus. Athens is withdrawing the unauthorized Greek troops from the island, but is hedging on the question of Greek officers and noncommissioned officers assigned to the Greek Cypriot National Guard.

The Turks insist that all Greek military personnel in excess of the Greek contingent authorized by the 1960 London-Zurich agreements must leave the island. The problem is complicated because estimates vary widely on the number of Greeks serving with the National Guard and on the Turkish military personnel integrated into the Turkish Cypriot "fighters" organizations.

Cypriot President Makarios has pushed for the withdrawal of all non-Cypriot troops, except for the UN force, including the Greek officers with the guard and the legal Greek and Turkish contingents.

On Cyprus, Makarios' normalization program appears to be getting off to a slow start. The Greek Cypriots have offered to withdraw elements of the National Guard from advance positions and to abandon several forward military posts if the Turkish Cypriots agree to abandon their "first line" of defense in the southern city of Larnaca. This has been a particular sore point for the Greeks. These moves would then lead to a broader normalization program to include Nicosia and the northern Turkish enclave of Kokkina.

(continued)

The initial Turkish Cypriot reaction was negative, but the real decision is up to Ankara. If this limited normalization effort fails, the US Embassy in Nicosia believes a broader UN-sponsored pacification program would appear to have little chance.

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Communist China: The grain harvest has probably been good this year, but there are serious problems in collection and distribution of food.

According to Hsieh Fu-chih, a high official in the Cultural Revolution, 1967 grain output was nine to 10.5 million tons over 1966 and "better" than 1957, the year before the disastrous Great Leap Forward. Chou En-lai has recently claimed that 1967 grain production exceeded 1966 by five to six percent.

It is probable that the harvest in 1967 was larger than in 1966, given the generally favorable weather conditions this year. The most serious current problem, however, is not the size of the harvest, but government collection and transport of grain.

Disruptions in the transport system, especially the railroads, are again on the increase following a period of comparative calm. In addition, the weakening of the control apparatus, virtually dismantled in some localities, and the persistent unsettled conditions throughout the countryside have probably made it possible for peasants in many areas to keep more than normal amounts of grain for themselves. In fact, it appears very unlikely that the government will succeed in securing the share of grain it would normally have obtained.

This year Peking is again buying grain from abroad. The Chinese have just concluded a contract to purchase two million tons of wheat from Canada for delivery next year. Negotiations are also under way with France and probably will soon begin with Australia.

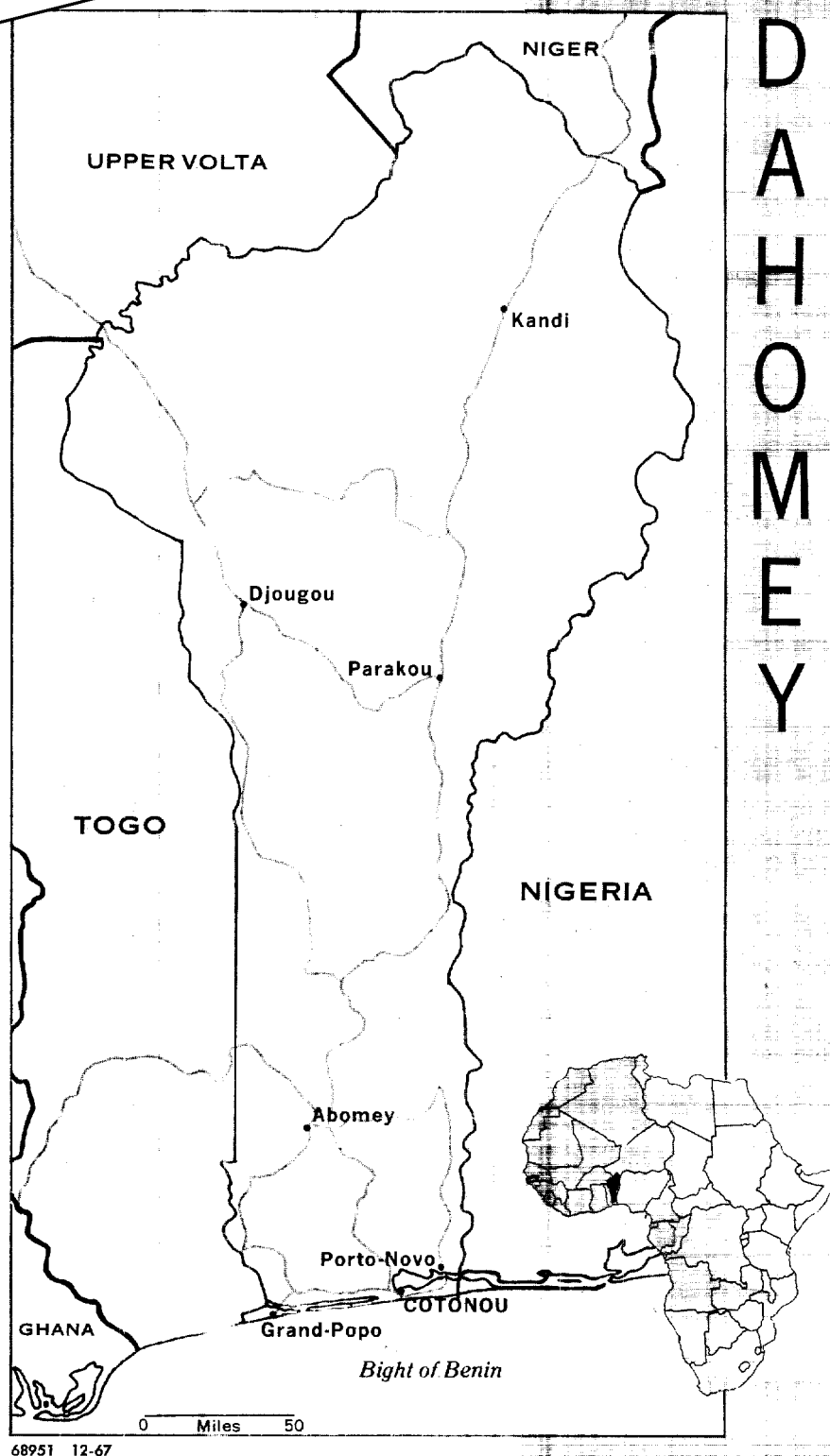
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Dahomey: [President Soglo has precipitated a major internal crisis within the shaky regime.]

[By a decree on 11 December General Soglo arrogated to himself direct control of the gendarmerie and the power to make military appointments. Both powers previously were held by the politically important army chief of staff, Colonel Alley.]

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[This latest flare-up coincides with a partially effective general strike that began on 11 December. Fifteen labor leaders have been arrested. Other union leaders have vowed to continue the strike until the jailed leaders are released and the ban on labor activity is lifted. The government, despite the current crisis, seems determined to crush the strike, by force if necessary. The unions are protesting a 25 percent "solidarity tax" and other austerity measures levied more than a year ago.]

[The government crisis has already begun to widen a regional split among army officers, and several civilian cabinet members appear ready to resign if Soglo does not rescind his decree.]

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